(d) the details of reserve fund as on 30th June, 2005, Corporation-wise?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Impact of strike against price hike

1673. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was any nation-wide strike recently of lorries, vans, autos and other vehicles to protest against the recent price hike of petrol and diesel;

(b) the impact of this strike in terms of economic loss for the entire country;

(c) whether the import and export process was affected on the date of strike;

(d) whether there was any law and order problem due to the strike; and

(e) what were the preventive measures taken to avert the strike?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (e) The transport operators under the banner of All India Motor Transport Congress (AIMTC) went on a one day token strike on 28 June 2005 in protest against the recent hike in prices of petrol and diesel. Overall, the strike had no impact on the movement of trucks except in a few States like Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu where inter-State and intra-State movements had been partially affected. No untoward incident involving law and order problem came to the notice of Government during the one day token strike.

Demand and Supply of kerosene

1674. SHRI THENNALAG BALAKRISHNA PILLAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a huge gap between the demand and supply of Kerosene sold through PDS in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the reasons for this gap; and

(d) the action taken to fill this gap through adequate supply of Kerosene for PDS?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI
SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) The Kerosene sold under Public Distribution System (PDS) is an allocated product. As per policy adopted by the Government of India the allocation of PDS kerosene to various States/ Union Territories was reduced every year beginning 2001-02 and till 2004-05, taking into account the number of LPG connections released in each of the States/Union Territories.

In view of the requests received from various State Governments for increasing the allocation, the Government of India have commissioned the first-ever detailed study of Kerosene demand in the country, through the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) in December 2004. The final report of NCAER is expected by September 2005.

Pending the report of NCAER, and taking a view thereupon, allocations for the year 2005-06, have been maintained at the level of 2004-05, including additional allocations made during that year to meet urgent demand of PDS kerosene in States/Union Territories. The decision about rationalizing the allocation of PDS kerosene among States/Union Territories would be taken after examining the NCAER report.

Testing agency for diesel

1675. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRIMATI BIMBARAIKAR:
SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether, of late PSU oil companies are losing out on diesel market share;

(b) whether the diesel sale by PSU oil companies fell by 9.5 per cent during the last quarter and if so, the reasons therefor;